

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 **METHOD AND SYSTEM USING HARDWARE ASSISTANCE FOR**
 TRACING INSTRUCTION DISPOSITION INFORMATION

10 A method, system, apparatus, or computer program
product uses a processor mechanism that generates a
disposition indicator that reflects whether an
instruction has been partially or fully executed by the
processor, i.e., whether the results of the instruction
are committed. The disposition indicator is then
15 captured in conjunction with other instruction trace
information for subsequent post-processing. For most
instructions, a predicate register value controls whether
an instruction is partially or fully executed; for these
instructions, the disposition indicator equals the value
of the predicate register. For other instructions that
20 are not predicated or cannot be predicated, the
disposition indicator is set when the instruction is
executed. A series of indicators for a series of
instructions may be stored in a disposition trace buffer
upon the completion of each instruction; the disposition
25 trace buffer may be located within the processor or
within memory.